





Carriage Dog Test – in brief

Willingness to work	Overall impression of commitment to work
Axle	Walk and Trot 100-200 metres
Axle with distraction	Trot 100 metres
Stay	Halt 1 minute (not commanded to sit or down)
Speed	Extended trot/canter 100 metres
Distance Trial	Bronze:10km; Silver: 20 km; Gold: 40 km

British Carriage Dog Society

The Society was established in July 2006 and exists:

-  To preserve the working heritage of the Dalmatian
-  To run national Trials
-  To encourage common standards for all Carriage Dog Trials
-  To offer advice and support

Becoming a member of the Society gives you the opportunity to support the Dalmatian in its traditional role. You will get a regular newsletter and access to information and events. To join the Society, please visit the web site or contact Chris Cleland on 01323 833732 or chris.cleland@dsl.pipex.com.

The Fenix Carriage Dog Trials are sponsored by:

Fenix Carriages

www.fenixcarriages.co.uk

Burns Pet Nutrition

www.burns-pet-nutrition.co.uk

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www.lintbells.co.uk



www.carriagedog.org
info@carriagedog.org



British Carriage Dog Society

Training Dalmatians to work with a carriage

Some hints and tips



Celebrating the working heritage of the Dalmatian

The Carriage Dog Trials

One of the Dalmatian's historic roles was as a carriage dog. They were used to decorate and guard carriage, travellers and their belongings and they had to keep pace with the horses on hard roads over long distances.

The purpose of the Trials is to provide a competition to test the modern dogs' ability to demonstrate the qualities required to be a working carriage dog. Competitors must do a basic obedience test with their dog, from their horse or carriage, followed by an endurance ride or drive of six, twelve or twenty-five miles.

The Trials test the dog's willingness to work, its ability to keep up at speed, and demonstrates that it's under its handler's control.

The dog's physical condition is assessed by a vet as part of the test.

Dogs which qualify earn the title of Road or Carriage Dog bronze, silver or gold, depending on the distance covered.



If this running position is established firmly in the dog's mind and he is required to run under a four wheel carriage, then there is no danger of him being hurt when a tight turn is made and a front wheel suddenly encroaches in to the space he was occupying!

With a pony size vehicle or a modern carriage, the axle will probably be too low for these problems to arise. The dog can still be trained to follow closely or run beside the near-side rear wheel, in which case his shoulders should not be in advance of the hub. A 'back step' carriage is very convenient as the dog can be trained to run to its handler's heel. This can be established with the command "heel " giving way to "wheel " as the handler steps up on to the carriage, but choose a word that works for you.

Modern methods of training or rewarding with tit bits

may cause problems in that it breaks the dog's concentration. Given by hand the dog must come too close to the turning wheel or if thrown on the ground cause a disobedience in retrieving it. A smile and an encouraging word should be enough of reward while working alternating with a stern rebuke when wrong. These two different voices are easily established in early training.

I have found a command to get the dog to empty its bladder before setting off helps eliminate hanging back and going off for a call of nature.

I have always hung a bell on the collar so that I can hear exactly where my dog is. I take it off at night. but all my dogs have insisted that it is put on before going out in the morning.

Once your dog is 100% solid, you can drive yourself, but your attention must at all times be on your horse, so your dog will be trained to wait with the carriage when it stops. Do not attempt to run a dog with a turnout you do not have under full control.

Joy Claxton

Training your Dalmatian to work with a horse: First steps on the ground

The first steps in obedience begin when the puppy is eight weeks old. He needs to be settled in to his new home and feel comfortable with his surroundings. This is the ideal time to start training.

These steps are appropriate for dogs of any age, although the earlier they are started, the easier it is for the puppy to learn.

Dogs are quick to learn by association. So, if the puppy sits and the right word is applied to the action and suitable reward is

given, then before long the dog learns that the word sit means reward and the right action follows.

When you are sure that he knows what the command means, take gentle remedial action to ensure that the dog gets it right if he ignores you. Only give a command once. If you don't he will learn he can ignore you if he wants.

Using his name at all times and generally bonding with your dog is paramount. Play is also important in building up a rapport and this should also be initiated as early as possible. A soft toy is ideal and the puppy must learn to